



Activities to do from Río Hermoso Hotel de Montaña

The outdoor activities to be done from Río Hermoso Hotel de Montaña differ in kind (kayak, canoeing, trekking, mountain bike, flyfishing, birdwatching, snowshoeing, skiing, etc.) and difficulty.

Depending on what guests want to do, they can go on their own following roads and paths from a map or hiring professional guides.

Examples of the different activities to be done are the ones that follow:

Machónico Lake

Outdoor activity: Canadian canoes &/ or Kayaks.

Lasting time: 3/4hs.

Distance from Río Hermoso: 10 minutes.

Difficulty: Easy. No need of previous experience.

Activity description: The Machónico Lake, known as the first of the ones that give the name to "The 7 Lake Road", has a particular orientation and very seldom big waves. The canoes or kayaks are brought down on a grass coast. After rowing for a while you reach the beginning of the Hermoso River. Rowing up the river the Pichi Machónico Lake is reached where we find a sandy coast for the rowers to rest. The return starts from that place, down the Lakes and the Hermoso River.

Time of the year: November to April. This is the recommended time of the year because of the hours of sunlight, temperatures and low probabilities of bad weather. Regarding these items, it can be done all year round.

Villarino Lake – Falkner Lake

Outdoor activity: Canadian canoes &/ or Kayaks.

Lasting time: Hole day (6 hours rowing).



Distance from Río Hermoso: 20 minutes.

Difficulty: Easy. No need of previous experience. Six hours rowing demand a low physical effort.

Activity description: After a morning in the water you arrive to the western side of the Villarino Lake. A basket lunch is prepared and from there you row to where the Villarino River starts. Rowing down this river you reach where it enters the Falkner Lake. Once in this lake the travelling continues down the lake's south bank up to the third part of its total length, where you can see its whole extension. These two lakes are surrounded by a typical Patagonian forest held between the mountains Peñascoso in the border with Chile, El Buque to the north and the Falkner to the south (covered by eternal snows). Their orientation is west – east which means that the dominant winds may blow over the water's surface, being the reason for the journey to change it's way.

Time of the year: November to April. This is the recommended time of the year because of the hours of sunlight, temperatures and low probabilities of bad weather. Regarding these items, it can be done all year round.

Trekking Laguna Las Corinas (Yuco)

Outdoor activity: Trekking.

Lasting time: 3 to 4 hs.

Distance from San Martín de los Andes: 22kms, 30 minutes.

Distance from Río Hermoso: 50 kms, 1 hour aprox.

Difficulty: Easy. It is a well indicated path. 200 mts over water level.

Activity description: It starts on the Yuco Beach on the Lacar Lake through a well indicated path to an area where some smaller lakes are surrounded by native forests of huge coihues and raulíes. After a morning hike you take lunch by a stream bank. The trekking continues to the Lacar's Lake shore and walk about the Yuco Bay.

Time of the year: All year round.



Trekking Cerro Falkner (2100 m.s.n.m)

Outdoor activity: Trekking in hight.

Distance from Río Hermoso: 25 minutes.

Lasting time: All day long (8 to 9 hours)

Difficulty: Medium. It demands a low physical effort. 1100mts over water level.

Activity description: This mountain is situated on the south coast of the Falkner Lake. It is one of the most attractive mountains of the region. From its peak you can see the filo Hua Hum, Nuevo, Falkner, Villarino and Traful Lakes; including the Lanin Volcano and the Tronador Mountain. The climbing lasts 4 or 5 hours, up an animal's path, through a forest of ancient lengas. Leaving the forest behind you reach the first peak. From this point the hike continues over sharp rocky edges up to the highest peak. The way back takes you to the point where the trekking started and a truck is waiting to take you back to the Hotel.

Time of the year: November to April.

Huechulafquen Lake Horse riding

Activity: Horse riding

Distance from San Martín de los Andes: 2 and a half hours.

Distance from Río Hermoso: 3 hours.

Lasting time: All day long. The horse riding lasts 6 hours.

Difficulty: Low.

Activity description: The ride starts on the base of the south face of the Lanín Volcano, passing through low forests. When the tree line ends you stop for a snack & drink, continuing to a view point where you can see the whole Huechulafquen Lake.



From this point the return begins all the way up to the Lake's bank where the riding ends.

Time of the year: November to May.

Chapelco Horse riding

Activity: Horse riding

Distance from Río Hermoso: 30 minutes.

Lasting time: Half a day (3 hours).

Difficulty: Low.

Activity description: The ride starts in El Oasis area, very close to San Martín de los Andes City, climbing the Chapelco mountain and passing through Mapuche's territories. On the way we pass through forests of Radales and Nothofagus to end on a low vegetation area where we can device different view points. From here you can see the Chapelco skiing traces, Las Pendientes, and the Lake Lacar.

Once the 900 msl are reached, at the Cerro Chapelco's base, we start the return all the way up to the where the riding ends and the transportation is waiting.

Time of the year: September to May.

Lago Hermoso Horse riding

Activity: Horse riding

Distance from Río Hermoso: 15 minutes.

Lasting time: All day long or Half a day (2/3 hours).

Difficulty: Low.

Activity description: The ride starts in the old Gendarmerie house that now belongs to the Estancia. This horse riding can take a day long where you reach the Laguna Las Cármenes view point. In this point the lagunas are seen in their whole extension, as



well as the Río Hermoso River and Machónico Lake. At mid day a typical asado is cooked in the argentinian way by the gauchos that take you to the view point. If you are more into a short ride, you can take the one that lasts 3 hours and takes you to the Hermoso Lake, crossing the Hermoso River on horseback and view point of the Machónico Lake. On your way back you cross through flat pine plantations.

Time of the year: September to May.

Activities in the Mapuche Community

Activity: Knowing a different and ancient culture

Distance from Río Hermoso: 20 minutes.

Lasting time: It can take from half a day to a whole day.

Activity description: Getting in contact with another culture's way of life is a possibility this region has. The Mapuche (mapu: earth, che: people) communities that are established in the Lanín National Park are "Aigo" and "Salazar" in Rucachoroy; "Cañicul" and "Raquithue" and Huechulafquen; and "Curruhuinca" and "Cayun" in the Lacar area; although there are other communities in San Martín de los Andes and other parts of the province.

It is possible to go trekking, guided horse riding, "catango's riding" (it is a cart with wooden wheels dragged by oxes), or even camping, eating in their areas and buying home made products.

Mountain bike Paraje Trompul

Activity: Mountain bike

Distance from San Martín de los Andes: 25 minutes.

Distance from Río Hermoso: 45 minutes.

Lasting time: 4 hours (1/2 a day).

Difficulty: Medium.



Activity description: You arrive to Paraje Trompul by car/ van, from where you start your bike riding, pedalling back to San Martín de los Andes through ancient roads used by the Mapuche communities to transport the wood from the forests to the city. The Mapuches are still living in this area and are the owners of the lands. Riding through this woods you arrive to the "Islita Beach" on the Lacar Lake coast. There, is the right place to stop for a drink and a refreshing dive into the lake's waters. Continuing your way back to San Martín de los Andes you pass by the "view point Bandurrias", where you can see the immensity of the Lacar Lake and the city of San Martín de los Andes. Here starts a descent through narrow tracks and big slopes til the end of the tour.

Time of the year: All year round.

Mountain bike Termas de Queñi

Activity: Mountain bike

Distance from San Martín de los Andes: 45 km, 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Distance from Río Hermoso: 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Lasting time: Whole day.

Difficulty: High. 26 km of bike riding and 6 km of trekking with important slopes.

Activity description: After arriving to Hua Hum (45 km from San Martín de los Andes) you start your trip pedalling for the first 12 km til you arrive to the Queñi Lake where you can eat lunch. From here it starts a 45 minutes trekking up to a place in the middle of the forest where you can take a bath in Thermal Waters. On your way back you ride on your bikes and before you arrive to Hua Hum you pass through Chachín waterfall. Back in Hua Hum and after a nice tea, you take the transportation back to the Hotel.

Time of the year: November to March.



Snowshoeing in Arroyo Partido

Activity: Snowshoeing

Distance from Río Hermoso: 20 minutes.

Lasting time: 4 hours.

Difficulty: No previous experience needed.

Activity description: Walking through the snowed forests where you can find unknown places. This experience shows you the real geography, and flora of the place, not as you see it in the skiing centers. You walk up to a view point 300 mts over the water level, where you take a snack and from where you start your way back.

Time of the year: winter and spring.

Cross country skiing

Activity: Cross country skiing

Lasting time: 2 to 3 hours.

Difficulty: No previous experience needed.

Activity description: You start climbing up a slope while you get used to the new walking techniques and equipment, for a period of time of 2 hours. After a snack you start skiing down to where the transportation is waiting.

Time of the year: winter and spring.

Trekking Cerro Mallo (1.978 mts o.s.l.)

Outdoor activity: Trekking in hight.

Lasting time: All day long.



Difficulty: Medium – High.

Geography: The Cerro Mallo is situated in the Lanín National Park, 40 km northwest San Martín de los Andes city, on the north bank of the Lacar and Nonthué Lakes.

Activity description: It is a very sharp and well indicated path. On your way up you pass through tall forests with thick and low vegetation under the trees. This situation makes the hike harder. If you keep on walking, in the higher places you find clear extensions of stones and snow. The return is through the same way you took to arrive to this point. The hike can last 9 hours and demands an important physical effort.

Time of the year: October to April.

Trekking
Colorado Mountain
(1800 m.s.n.m.)

Outdoor activity: Mountaineering/ climbing.

Lasting time: All day long.

Difficulty: High physical effort, low technique level required.

Distance from Río Hermoso: 50 minutes

Geography: The Colorado Volcano is situated in the Lanín National Park, few kilometers northwest of San Martín de los Andes city.

Activity description: It is a trekking, climbing approximately 3 to 4 hs. From Paraje Trompul you start walking up through an ancient forest of Coihues and Caña Colihue. Entering the Lenga's forest where the trees are more separated, and after crossing a stream you arrive to a stone view point. Leaving the vegetation line behind and walking over the volcanic stone you reach the peak where you can enjoy of a stunning view of the whole Cordillera. Here is where you can sit and enjoy the view while eating a nice lunch. After that you start your way back through the same way you took before, arriving to the base after 1 and a half hours walk.

Time of the year: All year round.



Flyfishing **Hermoso River - Filo Hua Hum Lake**

Outdoor activity: Flyfishing floating.

Lasting time: All day long.

Difficulty: Low physical effort, technique level required.

Distance from Río Hermoso: 30 minutes

Geography: The Filo Hua Hum Lake is situated in the Lanín National Park, between the rivers Filo Hua Hum East and West. The Filo Hua Hum East River has its mouth in the Lago Nuevo, and the Filo Hua Hum West River joins with the Meliquina River to make the Caleufu River.

Activity description: In the morning the professional guides test the equipments and casting on the Hermoso River bank. This river is easy to wade, depending on the time of the year. Once this activity is finished you are taken to the Filo Hua Hum Lake.- In this lake you just can float with boats or belly boats. No motor boats are allowed. For lunch a tasty vianda is served with drinks and desserts as it's not allowed to turn on a fire in the area because of the National Park regulations. For tea time delicious cakes, scones and home made delicatessen are the perfect company for the magic hour. And after a whole day of flyfishing you must enjoy of a special dinner at Río Hermoso's Restaurant.

Time of the year: November to April.

Flyfishing **Hermoso River – Meliquina River – Filo Hua Hum River– Caleufu River**

Outdoor activity: Flyfishing wading.

Lasting time: All day long.

Difficulty: Low physical effort, technique level required.

Distance from Río Hermoso: 30 minutes



Geography: Río Hermoso Hotel de Montaña is situated in the Lanín National Park, on the Hermoso's River bank. This river begins in the Hermoso Lake and flows into the Meliquina Lake. This lake gives the name to the river that flows down and joins with the Filo Hua Hum River to make the Caleufu River.

Activity description: In the morning the professional guides test the equipments and casting on the Hermoso River bank. This river is easy to wade, depending on the time of the year. Once this activity is finished you are taken to the Meliquina, Filo Hua Hum or Caleufu Rivers. You can wade this rivers depending on the time of the year and in different areas of their route. When the night arrives and after a day of fishing and wading, you are taken back to the Hotel for a perfect supper.

Time of the year: November to April.

Flyfishing Chimehuín River

Outdoor activity: Flyfishing floating.

Lasting time: All day long.

Difficulty: Low physical effort, technique level required.

Distance from Río Hermoso: 1 and a half – 2 hours.

Geography: The mouth of the Chimehuín River is located in the Huechulafquen Lake, famous for its great beauty and good fishing. Down the river you can find the Garganta del Diablo waterfall, ending its long route in the Collón Curá River.

Activity description: Early in the morning you are taken to the Chimehuín River where the boats are dropped in the water and the experience begins. For lunch a tasty vianda is served with drinks and desserts as it's not allowed to turn on a fire in the area because of the National Park regulations. For tea time delicious cakes, scones and home made delicatessen are the perfect company for the magic hour. When the night comes and after a great day in the water Río Hermoso will be happy to offer you a delicious dinner.

Time of the year: January to March.



Birdwatching

In the world there are around 9800 species of birds, belonging to 29 orders. 1/3 of them can be found in South America. In Argentina there are 998 species, grouped in 84 families and 23 orders. In San Martín de los Andes there are 189 species, 18% of the country's total amount, and they represent 41 families, grouped in 19 orders.

En esta zona podemos diferenciar y visitar 4 ambientes: estepa, bosque, altas cumbres y humedales.

In the area we can differentiate the following four environments: steppe, forest, highlands and wetlands.

The steppe, in the east, is characterized by semi-arid habitats with shrubs and bushes covering hill, plains and plateaus. The vegetation in the area is highly adapted to the semi-desert environment. Some wetlands (locally called "mallin") and river valleys interrupt these dry lands and are especially rich in birds.

The forest includes a wide range of trees belonging to the genus *Nothofagus* which dominate the slopes of the Andean mountains and adjoin ecotone forests (characterized by *Austrocedrus chilensis*, *Maytenus sp.* and *Trinerva chacaya*). The ecotone marks the transition to the steppe. Communities dominated by *Araucaria araucana* are present in the north and Valdivian forests dominates in the west. The diversity of birds is less than in the steppe, however, several endemisms and typical families exist in the subantarctic region.

The highland involve all of the ecosystems which exist on the mountain chains above the limit of the forest at 1800masl: grasslands, steppes, wetlands. Snows are frequent during the entire year and the annual average temperatures are below 7°C. The vegetation is well adapted to the cold and strong winds, therefore the vegetation is commonly short and rounded. Wetlands, richer in diversity, are found in the protected areas. Some species like the condor *Vulture gryphus* inhabit the area year-round, but many species arrive from the Puna (northern high Andean plains) during the summer and it is only possible to see them by ascending to the high mountain areas

The aquatic environment includes lakes, ponds, rivers or springs and wetlands of all types. Like we mentioned before, these are the richest environments and in some cases the strictly aquatic species live there regardless of them being surrounded by forest or steppe. Numerous species of ducks, grebes, coots, swans, geese, cormorants and gulls live in these bodies of water. Other species live strictly on river banks or lagoon shores and yet others live in the marsh vegetation. In the case of species associated to urban zones like pigeons and sparrows are possible to be seen only in this environment. With respect to the rural areas is the well known that a large quantity species have



experimented a clear expansion from northern Argentina to southern rural areas. Some have already arrived like the Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*, whilst others are spreading rapidly from the north-east and the first registers have been made of species.

Lasting time: All day long or half a day.

Time of the year: September to March.

Other outdoor activities:

- Canoeing in Curruhue Lake.
- Estancias Las Taguas horse riding
- Rafting in Caleufu River
- Rafting in Aluminé River
- Flyfishing in Filo Huahum Lake
- Flyfishing in Filohuahum or Meliquina Rivers
- Flyfishing in Chimehuín o Malleo Rivers
- Flyfishing in lakes: Machónico, Falkner and Nuevo, Villarino and Cajón Negro River; etc.
- Birdwatching in forests, lakes and steppes
- Tours around the 7 Lakes Corridor.
- Tour around San Martín de los Andes city.
- Skiing in Cerro Chapelco.
- Golf